

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An optical element consisting of comprising:
a transparent insulating substrate;
a circuitry layer on the insulating substrate, said circuitry layer including an active polysilicon layer;
a plurality of pixels; and
an only a single opaque optical shielding layer serving as a black matrix body disposed to lie between the insulating substrate layer and the active polysilicon layer, wherein the opaque shielding layer shields the polysilicon layer from light incident upon the insulating substrate layer and functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels, wherein the optical element does not include a shield above the circuitry layer that functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels, and wherein the optical element is part of a liquid crystal display.

Claim 2 (*Canceled*).

3. *(Original)* The optical element of claim 1 wherein the shielding layer comprises a material that is unaffected by exposure to temperatures up to 1,100°C.

Claims 4-23 (*Canceled*).

24. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised of a light reflective material.

Claim 25 (*Canceled*).

26. (*Currently Amended*) The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised ~~either~~ of silicon nitride, layers of silicon oxide and silicon nitride, ~~and or~~ a refractory metal encapsulated in a suitable barrier layer.

27. (*Currently Amended*) The optical element of claim 26, wherein the refractory metal comprises ~~either~~ tungsten, cobalt, or titanium.

28. (*Currently Amended*) The optical element of claim 26, wherein the barrier layer comprises ~~either~~ tungsten silicide, tungsten nitride, or titanium nitride.

29. (*Previously Presented*) The optical element of claim 26, further comprising a cap over said barrier layer.

30. (*Currently Amended*) The optical element of claim 26, wherein the cap comprises ~~either~~ silicon oxide, silicon nitride, or silicon oxynitride.

31. (*Previously Presented*) The optical element of claim 26, further comprising an adhesive layer disposed between the refractory metal and the transparent insulating substrate.

32. (*Previously Presented*) The optical element of claim 31, wherein the adhesive is comprised of a titanium/titanium nitride laminate.